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Pardoning of Criminals

(Continued from Third Page)

State Sanitarium; that he was let out on furlough, and while out on furlough killed Mr. Bartleson.

COPY OF COMMITMENT TO GEORGIA STATE ASYLUM.

State of Georgia—Tattal County. Court of Ordinary. June 20, 1900.

The commissioners appointed to inquire into the alleged insanity of James O. Williams of said county having filed a report showing that the said James O. Williams is a lunatic, and that as such he be committed, it is therefore ordered and adjudged that the said James O. Williams is a lunatic, and that as such he be committed to the lunatic asylum of said State until he be again restored to his right reason and sound mind.

It is further ordered that Joe Williams take said James O. Williams to the lunatic asylum.

(Signed) C. W. SMITH, Ordinary.

First—It shows Mr. Williams was adjudged a lunatic, June 20, 1900.

Second—Mr. Williams is shown to be in each of two asylums for the insane several months before the killing.

Third—It is shown that he was out of a lunatic asylum on furlough when he killed Mr. Bartleson.

A great number of letters and affidavits from honorable gentlemen can be seen by dozens, besides petitions signed by hundreds of splendid people.

A little later the Board of Pardons granted a commutation of sentence in the case of David Mitchell, alias "Black Kid," upon the following facts, as established by the evidence: That David Mitchell, alias "Black Kid," who was convicted at the fall term of the Circuit Court in and for Bradford County, 1904, for the crime of "murder in the first degree," and sentenced to be hanged, should now, upon the recommendation of several citizens of Bradford County, and the report of the medical examining committee appointed by the court to inquire into his sanity, that the said David Mitchell, alias "Black Kid," is a negro who does not possess the intelligence that the common negro possesses; that his intelligence is so low that he does not know right from wrong, and that he has been in such condition for several years; that he does not realize the enormity of the crime committed nor the meaning of the penalty provided by law, he granted a commutation to imprisonment in the State prison for the term of his natural life.

The salient parts of the evidence are as follows:

STATEMENT OF DR. N. W. FRANCIS.

I do not believe that "Black Kid" has the intelligence that even the common negro possesses; his degree of intelligence is so low that I do not believe that he is cognizant of the predicament that stands over him, and am quite sure that he does not possess that degree of intelligence that should be present when a person is executed.

STATEMENT OF DR. JNO. C. WILLS.

I do not believe that he is of sufficient brain power or intelligence to discriminate between right and wrong from the standpoint of civilized man, and I do not believe that he realizes the difference between killing of a human or any other animal.

STATEMENT OF DR. MARK ANTHONY.

After making a statement in substance the same as Dr. Francis and Dr. Jno. Wills, Dr. Anthony says that after making a thorough examination of David Mitchell, known as "Black Kid," inquiring into his sanity, and from such examination I know that he is far below the average grade of negro, and I think that his general appearance is such that would cause even a careless observer to detect that he is badly off in some way in his mind.

STATEMENT OF EX-SHERIFF E. E. JOHNS OF BRADFORD COUNTY.

Sheriff Johns, in an affidavit, states to the Board of Pardons that when Mitchell was turned over to him by one of his deputies, and during the preliminary trial next day, he saw signs of insanity; that Mitchell talked absent-mindedly and disconnectedly, and acted in such a way as to even cause an ordi-

Raising Stock Food in Florida

By S. H. Gaitskill

The question of feed for stock in Florida is of vastly more consequence than is generally thought. I have often wished that a correct statement could be given showing the amount of feed-stuff that was shipped into the State in a year. I believe a good part of this expense could and should be saved, or the money paid to Florida growers. There are more people interested in feed for horses and mules than any other class of stock, and it seems strange to me that Western hay is used so extensively when Florida makes a product superior to a great part of the hay that is shipped into the State. Good Florida hay, made of a mixture of crabgrass, cocksfoot grass and beggarweed, can be bought in the State at \$12 to \$15 per ton; yet the turpentine man and the sawmill man will pay \$18 to \$20 for prairie grass or inferior timothy, neither of which are as good as good Florida hay. There seems to be a fear on the part of a good many that the cocksfoot will injure the horses. I have fed Florida hay exclusively for the past ten years, and I find my horses and mules will pick out the heads of cocksfoot and eat that part of the hay first. As yet I have seen no horse or mule injured. I find a few people that recognize the value of home-grown hay. Major W. R. Thomas of Gainesville has been using it for years, and no liveryman in the State has better teams. I also find Mr. J. M. Meffert of Ocala, who does an extensive sawmill business, and also manufactures lime, using a good many teams, giving them hard work. He is well satisfied with Florida hay, and I am surprised that others do not want to save the \$4 to \$6 per ton on hay.

Corn makes a good crop in Florida. I say "makes" advisedly, as the rank and file of the farmers do but little toward helping make the corn crop; the cultivation it gets is incidental. I believe the question of stock feeds will have more attention in a few years, as there is a growing disposition to make better beef, a better hog, and better sheep. I feel that the coming Tampa fair will be a revelation to a great many Floridians; many and better home, or Florida-grown, stock will be there than is thought by a good many to be in the State. There is, in my opinion, no trouble in making good beef in Florida. We have good grass; the velvet bean, cowpea and peanut all furnish a feed very rich in protein, and we can fatten our stock with less carbonaceous feed than must be used in the North, as we don't have to use any of our feed as fuel to furnish animal heat.

There is some trouble about harvesting some of our crops during a rainy

season, unprofessional observer, to detect signs of insanity; and the Sheriff further states that he has some knowledge of insanity, having had many insane people in his care while Sheriff.

STATEMENT OF R. D. BENNETT.

R. D. Bennett says that he knows "Black Kid;" that he worked him and looked after his work, as a crossie chopper, etc., for several months at a time; and that while working him as aforesaid, I have often noticed that he would act very peculiar, and sometimes look like a wild man, and would not seem to know what he was doing and could not understand what I would tell him, and talk absent-minded. I have always said since I knew Mitchell that he was crazy, and I do not hesitate to say now that he is not only below the average negro, but that he is crazy, and is not aware of the crime that he has committed.

STATEMENT OF D. W. GEORGE.

Mr. D. W. George swears that he was jailer under ex-Sheriff E. E. Johns during the year 1904, and as jailer as aforesaid, I had David Mitchell, known as "Black Kid," under my care and charge from the time he was put in jail until the 1st of January of this year, and I believe his mental condition is such that he does not know that he has committed any crime at all.

STATEMENT OF D. R. EDWARDS, JR.

Mr. D. R. Edwards, being sworn, testifies: I reside at Lawtey, Bradford (Continued on Fourteenth Page)

season such as we had last summer, but the silo can be utilized here as well as anywhere, and rain does not interfere materially with that. I hope in a few years to be able to get a bunch of Florida calves with two crosses of good beef blood in them. I want to feed them and prove to myself, as well as others, that I am right, or wrong, in my estimate of a good Florida steer and Florida-grown feed. I fear it will take a demonstration of this kind to convince some of our people that we have a good business lying dormant. The three years that I have been breeding to short-horn bulls has demonstrated to me that any one with good pasture can raise good calves, and the question of feed is of but little consequence until fattening time comes. My three-quarter bred calves will compare favorably with the average grade in the North. I expect to have some at Tampa to show for themselves. Truly yours,

S. H. GAITSKILL.

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